

had gone down somewhat, although it was still elevated. By March 13 the eye was soft to palpation. The pupil was back to normal size, injection had considerably diminished, and the pain had completely subsided.

D. O. HARRINGTON, M. D.

SUMMARY

Roentgen therapy can be of value as a supplementary form of treatment in absolute glaucoma, and in some cases by its use enucleation may be avoided.

In the event of failure, removal can be done without fear of undesirable complications arising as a result of the irradiation. A review of other ophthalmic disorders in which roentgen therapy can be of aid is included.

CONCLUSIONS

1. It is to be strongly emphasized that roentgen therapy should only be given after ophthalmologic consultation, and that close observation and coöperation between the ophthalmologist and roentgenologist are essential to produce satisfactory results.

2. Five original cases of absolute glaucoma are presented, of which three cases were completely relieved of symptoms and the intra-ocular tension reduced.

3. The results obtained in ninety-five cases of absolute glaucoma reported in the literature are reviewed. Sixty-nine of these were benefited, while twenty-six failed to respond to the treatment.

4. There are no contraindications to the treatment, and since there is no known means of selecting cases every case of absolute glaucoma should have a trial of irradiation when enucleation is the only other alternative.

450 Sutter Street.

REFERENCES

1. Di Marzio, Q., and Salvatori, G. B.: Results of Roentgen Therapy in Certain Eye Diseases, *Strahlentherapie* (Jan.), 1932; *Resultate der Röntgentherapie bei einigen Augenaffektionen*, *Strahlentherapie*, 43:68-81, 1932.
2. Lane, Laura: Radiation Therapy: Its Scope in Ophthalmology, *Arch. Phys. Therapy* (Dec.), 1931.
3. Desjardins, A. U.: Action of Roentgen Rays and Radium on Eye and Ear—Experimental Data and Clinical Radiotherapy, *Am. J. Roentgenol.*, 26:639 (Oct.); 787 (Nov.), 1931.
4. Grubbe, E. H.: Priority in Therapeutic Use of X-rays, *Radiology*, 21:156-162 (Aug.), 1933.
5. Hilgartner, H. L., and Hilgartner, H. L., Jr.: Radium in Lesions of Cornea, *Arch. Phys. Therapy*, 15:103-107 (Feb.), 1934.
6. Laurence, W. S.: Results in X-ray Treatment of Lesions of the Eye, *Journal of the Tennessee State Medical Association*, 29:2831 (Jan.), 1935.
7. Pendergrass, E. P., and Andrews, J. R.: Radium Emanation Treatment of Vernal Catarrh, *Am. J. Roentgenol.*, 34:637-640 (Nov.), 1935.
8. Negru, D., and Michail, D.: X-ray Treatment of Tuberculous Iritis, *Fortschritte a. d. Geb. d. Roentgenstrahlen*, 53:544-548 (March), 1936; *Die Röntgenbehandlung der Iristuberkulose*, *Fortschr. a. d. Geb. d. Röntgenstrahlen*, 53:544-549 (March), 1936.
9. Richards, G. E.: Radiotherapy in Lesions About Eye, *Am. J. Roentgenol.*, 36:588-602 (Nov.), 1936.
10. Radium Therapy, by Wickham and De Grois. Funk and Wagnalls, Part II, Chapter IX, pp. 227-278.
11. Corbett, J. J.: Effect of Radium on Glaucoma, *Boston M. and S. J.*, 190:1082-1084 (June 19), 1924.
12. Hess, P.: Roentgen Treatment in Absolute Glaucoma, *Strahlentherapie*, 49:422 (March 7), 1934; *Die Röntgenbehandlung des Glaukoma absolutum*, *Strahlentherapie*, 49:422-426, 1934.
13. Wachner, G.: Roentgen Therapy of Absolute Glaucoma, *Strahlentherapie*, 62:198-203, 1938; *Die Röntgentherapie der absoluten Glaukome*, *Strahlentherapie*, 62:198-203, 1938.
14. Krubig, W.: Roentgen Irradiation of Eyes Blinded by Absolute Glaucoma, *Wien Klin. Wchnschr.* (July), 1936.

THE LITERARY PHYSICIAN: A NOTE ON OSLER'S ESSAYS*

By WILLIAM WHITE
Los Angeles

FALCONER MADAN'S remark that Osler, in his *Principles and Practice of Medicine*, "succeeded in making a scientific treatise literature," has been partly substantiated with the recent publication of *This Generation*, an anthology of selections from recent American and English literature.¹ For along with Robert Frost, the eminent New England poet, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Robinson Jeffers, and other contemporary poets, Theodore Dreiser, Eugene O'Neill, and James Joyce, appears Sir William Osler's "Neurasthenia" from the 1930 edition of the *Practice*. Preceded by a brief note which calls Osler's writings "invariably gentle, kind, suave, but hard and clear in their scientific authenticity," the selection from Sir William is included in the section entitled "Scientific Observers"; and two other observers are William Beebe and Julian Huxley.

But this is not the first time Osler's writings have been in anthologies, although it is the initial instance of the *Practice* being used for its literary value. "The Student Life" has been the most popular of his many essays; and just this summer a new anthology, *Reading and Thinking*,² included it (in part) side by side with Oliver Wendell Holmes's "Autocrat of the Breakfast Table." Incidentally, a few pages from Dr. Hans Zinsser's *Rats, Lice, and History*, and Dr. Logan Clendenning's *The Human Body*, are also in this unusual compilation. Christopher Morley was the first critic to use "The Student Life" in a collection of essays, and, in doing so, he remarked that Osler's "honorable place as a man of letters" should be "more generally understood."³ Professor Franz Montgomery⁴ and Professor Warner Taylor⁵ later chose this brilliant essay for their anthologies. Osler's "Science and Immortality" has also found its way into a volume of literary essays, *The Farther Shore*, which is limited, however, to the topic of immortality.⁶

I have elsewhere pointed out certain literary⁷ and historical⁸ aspects of the essays by Sir William. No one can avoid, on reading his many essays—or even the magnum opus, the *Practice*—coming to the conclusion that innumerable classical allusions and the wealth of literary flavor must have been born of a tremendously wide reading and research. Doctor Cushing's *Life of Sir William Osler* and the enormous *Bibliotheca Osleriana's* keen critical annotations give sufficient proof of this. One could certainly get a liberal education in literature merely

* From the Department of English, Pacific States University.

by tracking down all of his quotations and allusions. From Plato to Walt Whitman through Shakespeare, Sir Thomas Browne, Keats, Shelley, and the Bible—a mere list of his reading would fill pages!

In addition to his wide reading, there is a diversity that is astonishing, a diversity that carries over to his writing and activities. This remarkable physician, teacher, essayist, lecturer, historian, and bibliographer has books and essays in no less than six departments of the Los Angeles Public Library. One may find, for example, *The Alabama Student and Other Biographical Essays* (New York, 1908) and the pamphlet on *Michael Servetus* (Oxford, 1909) in the Biography and History Room. In the Teachers' Room are his *Old Humanities and the New Science* (Boston, 1920) and "Vocation in Medicine and Nursing," in Basil Mathews' *Essays on Vocation* (Oxford, 1919, pp. 119-128). The Philosophy and Religion Room has *Science and Immortality* (Boston, 1904) and the odd, privately printed volume, *Messages on Healing, Understood to Have Been Dictated by William James, Sir William Osler, Andrew Jackson Davis and Others, and Received by Mrs. Jane Revere Burke, Sitting with Edward S. Martin* (1936). In the Literature and Philology Room are the several anthologies and Osler's *Student Life and Other Essays* (Boston, 1931). In the Science Room, of course, is the *Principles and Practice* in several editions, and there one also may find *Bibliotheca Osleriana* (Oxford, 1929) and *The Evolution of Modern Medicine* (New Haven, 1921). The Periodical Room contains, among others, under general reading, "Burton's Anatomy of Melancholy," in the *Yale Review* (2:251-271, January 1914), "Greek at Oxford" in the *Nation* (91:544-555, December 8, 1910), and "Man's Redemption of Man" in the *American Magazine* (51:246-252, December 1910).

The list is by no means complete. If the Los Angeles Library had them, the *Æquanimitas* volume and *Creators, Transmuters, and Transmitters as Illustrated by Shakespeare, Bacon, and Burton* would certainly be among the literary and philological works. Here, too, the *Alabama Student* might well be placed; for, says Christopher Morley, the essay on Keats "taken with Kipling's wonderful story, *Via Wireless*, tells the student more about that poet than many a volume of biography." And if allusion and quotation are any criterion, any number of his works could be catalogued among works of literature. To choose at random, for instance, *Science and Immortality*: this contains quotations from the Bible (the Books of Job, Esdras, Psalms, Galatians, Isaiah, Ecclesiastes, Acts, Corinthians, and Matthew), from Aristotle's *Ethics*, Plato's *Phaedo* and *Apology*, the *Odyssey*, Horace's *Carmina*, from Terence, Goethe, from Browne's *Religio Medici* and *Hydriotaphia*, from Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy*, John Donne's *Biathanatos*, Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Milton's *Areopagitica* and *Eikonoklastes* and *Paradise Lost* and *Hymn to the Nativity*, from Montaigne, from Shelley's *Adonais*, Tennyson's *Maud* and *In Memoriam*, Pater's

Marcus the Epicurean, Stephen Phillips' *Herod*, from the *Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*, Jowett on Buddhism, and from Holmes's *Autocrat of the Breakfast Table*. This does not include the mass of allusions made to various literary subjects and characters without actually quoting!

Osler was never all doctor: it could never have fallen to a genius of his stature to be *all* any one thing. His eminence in the scientific realm has done much to obscure his greatness as an author; yet it served at the same time to develop his literary talents. Like Byron, we "hate the author who is *all author*"; such a narrowness is impossible in a man of Osler's great intellect and wide sympathies. The leaven of science in his literary work served to raise it "above the common dough" and to give it specific as well as universal purpose.

1117 Venice Boulevard.

REFERENCES

1. This Generation. Edited by George K. Anderson and Eda Lou Walton. Chicago: Scott, Foresman & Company, 1939. See pp. 723-743.
2. Reading and Thinking: A Text for Classes in English Composition. Edited by Frank H. McCloskey and Robert B. Dow. New York: Doubleday, Doran & Company, Inc., 1939. A brief introduction, notes, and questions are printed with the selection, pp. 23-29.
3. Modern Essays: First Series. Edited by Christopher Morley. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1921, pp. 128-144.
4. Essays in Science and Engineering: Selected Reading for Students of Composition. Compiled by Franz Montgomery. New York: Ray Long and Richard R. Smith, Inc., 1932, pp. 156-168.
5. Essays of the Past and Present. Selected and Arranged by Warner Taylor. New York and London: Harper & Brothers, 1927, pp. 568-578.
6. The Farther Shore: An Anthology . . . on . . . Immortality. Edited by N. E. Griffin and L. Hunt. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1934, pp. 266-275.
7. *Æquanimitas*: "Osler's Inspirational Essays," Bull. Hist. Med., 4:820-833 (July 1938); "Sir William Osler as a Critic of the Novel," M. Rec., 148:340-342 (Nov. 2), 1938; "Osler on Shakespeare, Bacon, and Burton," Bull. Hist. Med., 7:392-408 (April), 1939; "Walt Whitman and Sir William Osler," American Literature, 11:73-77 (March), 1939.
8. "The Biographical Essays of Sir William Osler and Their Relation to Medical History," Bull. Hist. Med., 7:28-48 (Jan.), 1939.

CLINICAL NOTES AND CASE REPORTS

BLOOD BANK: SAN FRANCISCO HOSPITAL*

By J. C. GEIGER, M. D.
San Francisco

ON December 7, 1939, the Blood Preservation Laboratory (usually referred to as the Blood Bank) officially opened for business at the San Francisco Hospital. The original inauguration of the Blood Bank was made possible by donations coming through the University of California and

* First annual report, December 31, 1940.

By J. C. Geiger, M. D., Director of the San Francisco Department of Public Health.